

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CCO-00 SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05 OPR-02

PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SS-15 SY-05

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 5109

INFO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 7029

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PARATROOPS MUTINY: SITREP NO. TEN

MINISTER OF LABOR COMMENTS

1. MINISTER OF LABOR TOMAS ROSA TOLD LABATT AT 2000 HOURS
LOCAL THAT GOVERNMENT WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE BY PARATROOP
MUTINY BUT CONFIDENT THAT IT CAN HANDLE SITUATION.
ROSA SUMMARIZES SITUATION SAYING THAT PARATROOPER SERGEANTS AND
ENLISTED PERSONNEL HAD OCCUPIED AIR FORCE BASES AT OTA MONTEJO,
MONTE REAL AND MONSANTO. MONTE REAL HAS ALREADY RETURNED TO GOVER-
NMENT CONTROL. PRESIDENT HAD ORDERED COLONEL JAIME NEVES AND HIS
COMMANDOS TO OCCUPY THE AIR FORCE COMMAND CENTER AT MONSANTO
PARK IN LISBON. ANTENNA OF RTP TELEVISION STATION IS LOCATED AT
MONSANTO AND THUS OCCUPATION WILL ALSO EFFECTIVELY REMOVE DISSIDENT-
CONTROLLED TELEVISION FROM THE AIR. FOLLOWING OCCUPATION OF MON-
SANTO, ROSA SAID COMMANDOS HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO OCCUPY RADIO CLUB
PORTUGUESE AND EMMISSORA NACIONAL.

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2. ROSA SAID HE HAD VISITED SALGUEIRA MAIA, COMMANDER OF

CAVALRY UNIT AT SANTAREM EARLIER TODAY. MAIA IS FIRMLY WITH MODERATES BUT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE THEY WILL NEED TO CALL HIS FORCES OUT. GOVERNMENT ALSO HAS CONTROL OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTALION AT CASCAIS AND ITS DUAL PURPOSE GUNS. TOGETHER THESE THREE UNITS ASSURE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO CONTROL LISBON.

3. ROSA BELIEVES MUTINY IS RESULT OF COMMUNIST PARTY ENCOURAGEMENT TO MAJOR COSTA MARTINS, CPT CLEMENTE, CPT BERGONHA, CPT PAULINHO, MOST OF WHOM WERE FORMERLY AFFILIATED WITH J-5 AGITPROP UNIT. COSTA MARTINS'S AMBITIONS ARE WIDELY KNOWN. ROSA REASONS THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAD FAILED TO PRECIPITATE A RIGHT WING COUP ATTEMPT IN SPITE OF THEIR DESIRE TO DO SO. CONSEQUENTLY, THEY ENCOURAGED HARE-BRAINED SCHEME BY WILLING DUPES IN HOPE OF GENERATING A GENUINE COUNTER COUP ATTEMPT FROM THE RIGHT. A RIGHTIST COUNTER COUP WOULD BE WIDELY REGISTERED AND THUS AGAIN GIVE THE COMMUNISTS CLAIM TO WIDE-SPREAD POPULAR SUPPORT. PROOF THAT PCP IS NOT GIVING MUTINY FULL SUPPORT IS ITS FAILURE TO CALL OUT UNIONS.

4. ROSA STATES THAT IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT PRESIDENT HAS ASSUMED COMMAND AND ORDERED THE COMMANDOS TO OCCUPY MONSANTO. ROSA CLAIMS THAT PRESIDENT WOULD WAIT UNTIL IT WAS CERTAIN WHICH SIDE WOULD WIN AND THEN WOULD CHOOSE THE WINNING SIDE. HE SAID THAT GOVERNMENT HAD EARLIER DECIDED TO REPLACE GENERAL FABIAO AS ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF. HOWEVER FABIAO, BEING INTELLIGENT, IS DESPERATELY TRYING TO MAKE HIS PEACE WITH THE GOVERNMENT SO THAT HE CAN RETAIN HIS POSITION. ROSA STATED THAT OTELO IS WITH THE PRESIDENT AT BELEM PALACE BUT BELIEVES THAT HE HAD PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF IMPENDING MUTINY AND THAT THE SUBSEQUENT INQUIRY WILL END OTELO'S COMMAND OF COPCON. HE BELIEVES OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE MUTINY MUST BE CASHIERED AND IMPRISONED.

5. ROSA STATED THAT ALL IMPORTANT AIR FORCE COMMANDERS AND COMBAT AIRCRAFT ARE AT CORTEGACA IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL. FIVE BASES OCCUPIED BY THE PARATROOPERS HAVE NO OPERATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.

6. THE GOVERNMENT IS FIRM THAT VASCO LOURENCO WILL REMAIN AS MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE LISBON MILITARY REGION. BRIGADIER CHARAIS IN COIMBRA (CENTRAL MILITARY REGION) IS OVERBEARING, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND HAS HIS EYE ON OTELO'S POSITION. HOWEVER MODERATES HAVE SUPPORT OF MANY COMMANDERS IN THIS REGION AND ARE NOT OVERLY CONCERNED THAT CHARAIS MAY SHIFT SIDES. CARLUCCI

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